

Reading

Reading is fundamental to all learning and supports us as lifelong learners. It can open our minds to people, places, and ideas beyond our own experiences. It gives us the knowledge we need to make informed choices as responsible citizens in a democratic society. One need only to browse the Internet to realize how much information is available to us at our fingertips. Understanding what we read, using the wealth of information available to us, and thinking critically about what we read, are crucial skills to function successfully in today's world.

About the Test

AIMS DPA Reading will present several passages to read, both fiction and nonfiction. You may also be given informational text to read – for example, labels or pages from manuals. The questions will measure your ability to understand, interpret, and analyze what you have read. There are approximately 84 multiple-choice reading items. Thirty-nine items are AIMS questions, 15 items are *TerraNova* and AIMS DPA questions, and 30 items represent ten *TerraNova* reading questions and 20 *TerraNova* language arts questions. The test should be completed in approximately 1-2 hours. One sample passage is provided in this guide followed by a set of questions. Reading this passage and answering the questions may help you prepare for the test. An answer key is included in this guide.

Hints for Taking AIMS DPA Reading

- You will be asked to read different types of fiction and nonfiction, so adjust your reading to your purpose. Read each passage and the accompanying questions carefully.
- Think about each question before you respond.
- In the multiple-choice questions, choose the **best** response to the question.
- Manage your time so that you won't feel rushed answering questions that require more thought. **This is not a timed test**, but you do want to use your time well.
- Answer all items.

A Letter to the School Board

Dear School Board Members:

Next week, you will vote on removing vending machines that dispense soft drinks, candy, and salty snacks. This will require students to eat only the foods provided in the cafeteria or that are brought from home. My teacher, Ms. Solomon, allowed my class to discuss our opinions on the issue. She suggested that we present our viewpoints to you. Many of my friends oppose removing the machines; I support removing them.

First, many of the kids at my school are getting fat and lazy eating food that isn't very nutritious. Whenever they are thirsty, they buy a soft drink instead of drinking water. If they get hungry, they grab a candy bar or bag of chips instead of carrots or bananas. As a result, they are becoming obese. Many have stopped participating in physical activities they enjoyed when they were fit.

Second, kids are spending too much money on these snacks. Some of my friends spend \$4-\$8 a day at the vending machines. Sometimes they do not have the \$2 left to buy healthy foods at lunch. A student could spend up to \$160 a month for junk food, or they could get good foods in the cafeteria for only \$40 a month.

Third, a lot of kids at my school have told me that they buy junk food because they do not like the food in the cafeteria. They would rather buy snacks that taste good to them than food that is good for them. If the school got rid of the vending machines, everyone would have to eat in the cafeteria. Schools might be pressured to provide the kinds of foods kids like.

Finally, having the vending machines on campus is like being sponsored by that company. I don't think that is right. Our school gets money from the soft drink company for only selling its products. Money shouldn't come at the expense of students' health.

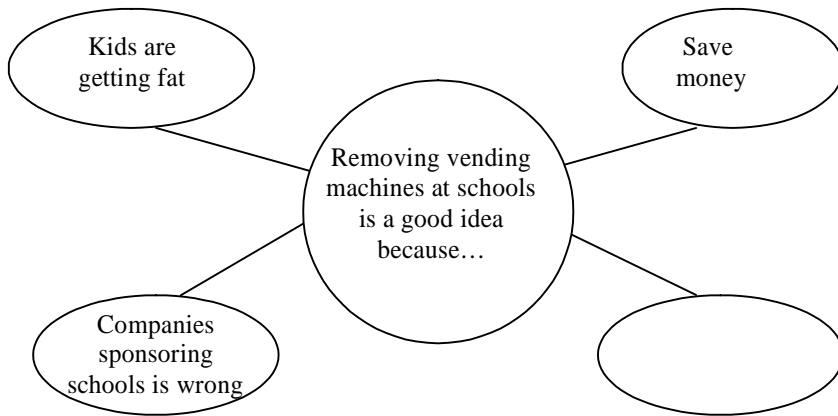
Thank you for asking students how they feel about removing the vending machines. I am happy to share my feelings about school vending machines. I hope you will consider my letter when you discuss removing the machines at your meeting next week.

Sincerely,

Isaac Johnson

Isaac Johnson

1 Look at the web from “A Letter to the School Board.”



Which information is missing from the web?

- A Some vending machine foods are healthy.
- B Schools shouldn't need vending machine funds.
- C Students would spend the same amount on food anyway.
- D School cafeterias would be forced to provide better tasting food.

2 Which statement supports Isaac's argument?

- A More students are healthier now than in the past.
- B Vending machine foods are cheaper than cafeteria food.
- C The fat content of snack food is higher than cafeteria food.
- D Kids eat more junk food at home than they do at school.

3 Which sentence from the letter is an opinion?

- A Third, a lot of kids at my school have told me that they buy junk food because they do not like the food in the cafeteria.
- B Money shouldn't come at the expense of students' health.
- C Next week, you will vote on removing vending machines that dispense soft drinks, candy, and salty snacks.
- D I hope you will consider my letter when you discuss removing the machines at your meeting next week.

4 What does Isaac hope to achieve by writing this letter?

- A to help people save lunch money
- B to require schools to change the cafeteria menu
- C to describe why he thinks fewer student participate in sports
- D to persuade the school board to remove vending machines

5 In this letter, what does the word fit mean?

- A in shape
- B put in
- C proper
- D **matched**

6 According to the letter, which statement is true?

- A All obese students eat snacks from vending machines.
- B Eating lunch in the school cafeteria will cost about \$160 a month.
- C If vending machines are removed from schools, cafeteria food will taste better.
- D Students in Ms. Solomon's class were given an assignment to write to the board.

7 Which of these statements about Isaac is **most** likely true?

- A He eats healthy foods and participates in physical activities.
- B He spends most of his money at vending machines.
- C He doesn't want any changes in the cafeteria food.
- D He doesn't like to eat nutritious food.

Scoring Key

Reading Key

Question #1: D
Question #2: C
Question #3: B
Question #4: D
Question #5: A
Question #6: C
Question #7: A